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Pankaj Oudhia's Notes on Mesua ferrea L. [Kirtikar, Kanhoba Ranchoddas, and Baman Das Basu. "Indian Medicinal Plants." Indian Medicinal Plants. (1918)].

- Posted by [Pankaj Oudhia](#) on April 30, 2014 at 2:52
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Pankaj Oudhia

Introduction

Based on Ethnobotanical surveys since year 1990 in different parts of India Pankaj Oudhia has documented vital information about Medicinal Plants mentioned in the famous publication by Kirtikar and Basu (1918). Through this research document Pankaj Oudhia has tried to present original document with additional notes. For complete paper with pictures, Interactive Tables, Video and Audio clips please visit pankajoudhia.com

For original publication by Kirtikar and Basu (1918) please visit <https://archive.org/details/indianmedicinalp01kirt>

134. *Mesua ferrea*, Linn, h.f.b.l, i. 277

Roxb. 437.

Syn. : — *M. speciosa*, Choisy ; *M. coromandeliana*, Wight.

Sans. :— Nagakesara.

Vern. : — Nagkesar ; naghas (H. and B.) ; Nageshvoru,

nageswar (Uriya); Nahor (Assam.) ; Nagchampa ; thorlachampa (Bom.); Nagchampa, thorla chumpa (Bombay); Nagachampa ; nagchampha (Mar.); Naugal ; Mallay naugal ; nagap-pu ; Nagas-hap-pu (Tarn.); Naug (Tinnevelley) ; Naga Kesara ; naga kesaramu ; gejpashpam ! Tel.); Naga sampigi ; Nassampige (Kan. v ; Behetta-cham-pagam ; velutta-chenpakam (Mai.).

Habitat : — Mountains of Eastern Bengal, the Eastern Himalaya and the Eastern and Western Peninsulas.

A large evergreen glabrous tree ; trunk erect, straight ; twigs slender sub-4-angled. " Bark Jin. thick, reddish-brown, peeling off in flat thin cakes, having a slightly roughened surface. Wood somewhat resembling that of *Calophyllum*, but much harder and heavier. Heart-wood red, dark, extremely hard. Pores moderate-sized, scanty, often filled with yellow resin, singly or grouped, or in oblique strings of varying length. Medullary rays extremely fine, uniform, equidistant, very numerous. Numerous fine wavy lines of dark-coloured tissue, regular and prominent, but of very different lengths (Gamble). The young shoots at first brilliant red, then pink, gradually passing into dark green (Brandis). Leaves coriaceous, 2-6 by

1J to 1f in., drooping linear-lanceolate, base acute or rounded,
dark green and shining above, covered more or less with a fine
waxy meal beneath ; veins very fine, close-set and equally

N. 0. GUTTIFERAE. 155

inconspicuous on both surfaces ; petiole 1-2 in. Flowers very
fragrant, usually terminal and solitary or in pair, nearly sessile
bisexual, 3-4 in. diam. Flowers, Feb-April. Sepals 4, in 2 rows,
thick orbicular, with membranous margins, inner pair largest.
Petals 4, imbricate, spreading cuneate obovate, pure white.
Stamens indefinite, Anthers as large, oblong, linear, basifixed,
golden yellow. Ovary 2-celled, 2 ovules in each cell ; style
filiform ; stigma peltate. Fruit pointed, conically ovoid, 1-1.5 in.,
2-valved. Valves tough, supported by the enlarged sepals. Seeds
1-4, testa smooth, hard, shining, dark brown ; embryo a fleshy
homogeneous mass.

Parts used- -The flowers, kernel, bark and leaves. **[Pankaj Oudhia's Comment: *All parts are used as medicine. Even the insects and mites attacking its wild population are used as medicine in Traditional Entomophagy and Entomotherapy. The Traditional Healers of Chhattisgarh and***

Odisha use the soil collected from root zone of Mesua in treatment of different diseases both internally as well as externally. For details please see Tables Mesua-1 to Mesua-15]

Use. — The flowers are considered by the Hindu physicians to have astringent and stomachic properties, A paste made of the flowers with butter and sugar, is used in bleeding piles and burning of the feet. (U. C. Dutt.)

<iframe width="420" height="315" src="//www.youtube.com/embed/QRVD48C-QLI" frameborder="0" allowfullscreen></iframe>

The flowers and leaves are used in Bengal as antidote to snake poison (O'Shaughnessy). The bark is mildly astringent and feebly aromatic (Dymock) ; the oil of the seeds is used as an embrocation in rheumatism in North Canara (Ph. Ind., p. 32), and found useful in the treatment of itch by K. L. Dey.

[Pankaj Oudhia's Comment: *The Indian Traditional Healers have in depth Traditional Medicinal Knowledge about this species. I have documented information about over 150,000 Herbal Formulations in which Mesua is added as denary ingredient. Mesua flowers are popular as immune booster among the Healers. Flowers are added as tertiary ingredient in over 40,000 Herbal Formulations. Most of these Formulations are new to modern science and waiting for validation through clinical trials. Mesua bark is added as nonary ingredient in thousands of formulations used for blood related diseases. Most of the Healers practice Traditional Allelopathic Knowledge or collect the plant parts from wild based on this knowledge in order to get the desired effects. Mesua roots are used in treatment of Neurological disorders in form of over 20000 Herbal Formulations. Mesua roots are added as primary, secondary and octonary ingredients in these formulations. Please see Tables Mesua-16 to Mesua-216 for exhaustive information on this species.*]

In many localities, the flowers are used for cough, especially when attended with much expectoration. Rheede states that the bark is given as a sudorific combined with ginger.

<iframe src="https://archive.org/embed/PankajOudhiaMesuaOverdose" width="640" height="480" frameborder="0" webkitallowfullscreen="true" mozallowfullscreen="true" allowfullscreen></iframe>

Moodeen Sheriff considers the flowers of *Mesua ferrea* and *Ochrocarpus longifolius* to be stimulant and carminative and useful in some forms of dyspepsia and in haemorrhoids.

The seeds resemble chestnuts in colour and form. The kernel yields 79*48 p.c. of a brown non-drying oil, partially soluble in alcohol, and gives an orange coloration, with a mixture of sulphuric and nitric acids. The residue contains 2414 p. c. of proteins. (J. Ch. I, for Aug. 31, 1910, p. 1019.)

The seeds are brown and generally pear shaped ; they consist of a shiny, brittle, woody shell containing a single buff-colored kernel. Shell 34 per cent., kernel 56 per cent, The kernels contain 76 per cent, of reddish brown oil with a sweetish smell and slight bitter taste. The oil became semi-solid on

standing at 15° C. Sp-gr. at 15° C. 0'935 ; saponification value, 204 ; iodine value, 90. The oil is useful in soap making. The residual cake is bitter and probably poisonous ; it would only be of value as manure.

[Bulletin Imperial Institute 1913.]

E-documents on Mesua

<http://ecoport.org/ep?SearchType=earticleList&Author=oudhia&...>

Citation

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